

**Eastern RI Conservation District
PO Box 158 – Tiverton, RI 02878 – (401)-816-5667**

**ERICD Board Meeting
January 20, 2015 7:00 pm
At Sandywoods, 73 Muse Way, Tiverton, RI**

- I. Call to Order, Introductions:** The Chair called the meeting to order at 7pm.
Present were: Directors: Emerson Wildes (Chair), Ron Mucci, Dick Hart and Russ Smith; District Manager: Jessica Blackledge; NRCS: Melissa Hayden.
- II. Changes/ Additions to Agenda:** No changes or additions to the agenda were made.
- III. Minutes from December 16, 2014 Meeting:** Motion was made by Russ to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Ron. Ron, Emerson and Russ voted to accept. Dick abstained stating he did not attend the December meeting and did not feel comfortable casting a vote.
- IV. Reports:**
- A. NRCS** – Melissa provided a written NRCS activity report and provided training and information on NRCS's Water Well practice.
 - B. Financials** –Financial reports were distributed to the Board via email in advance of the meeting and via hard copy at the meeting. Ron made a motion that the Board is in receipt of the financial reports. Motion was seconded by Dick and passed unanimously.
 - C. RISCC** – Minutes from the December 10, 2014 RI SCC meeting were presented.
 - D. RIACD** – Nothing to report this month.
 - E. District Manager** – DM provided a written report and provided highlights to the board.
 - F. Directors**
 - ~ Russ reported that the Tiverton Library will be holding a workshop at Sandywoods on Harvesting Wild Mushrooms on Feb 23rd at 6:30pm (43 Muse Way Tiverton, RI).
 - ~ Ron reported he and Dick attended a NOFA/RI event at Roots Farm in Tiverton on January 11th entitled "Growing for Winter Markets"
 - ~ Dick reported a large number of geese (1000/flock) utilizing farmland on Neck road.
 - ~ Emerson reported more geese activities in his pasture this season most likely due to lack of snow cover and management activities.

V. Old Business

- A. Board Recruitment** – A written report from the SCC on ERICD Board Recruitment event attendance, outcomes and follow-up conducted was presented. DM also provided activity updates verbally including stating that one candidate is still interested in becoming a board member.
- B. Cooperative Project with Sandywoods Farm** – Standing agenda item. Nothing to report and no discussion/action was taken this month.
- C. Proposed District Record Book** – Standing agenda item. Nothing to report and no discussion/action was taken this month.
- D. Proposed Grant Committee** – Standing agenda item. Nothing to report and no discussion/action was taken this month.
- E. District Manager Admin Tasks** – Ramona requested DM discuss with the Board the necessity for flexibility of the DM's admin time and tasks as some weeks there will be more tasks to complete than others. For example, sometimes Ramona needs the DM's help with financial logistics or obtaining signatures, etc. which is not currently included under the approved Admin Task List. The Board discussed this request and stated that the DM has some discretion as to which tasks to prioritize under the 5 hrs/week allotted. However, if tasks assigned will take more than the 5 hrs/week, Ramona is to discuss her needs with the Chair who will then approve or disapprove the additional tasks and time required.

The Chair had previously requested the DM to develop a list of the approved tasks currently assigned and provide time estimates that it takes to complete each task. This task/time breakdown was provided to the Board.

The Chair also lodged a request that someone take meeting minutes in addition to the DM so the Board can get minutes for the previous meeting faster than the DM can provide due to task load and priorities. DM stated she can try to get the minutes out sooner, but that, if the Board is asking someone else to take a second set of minutes, she recommends that task be removed from her list of Admin duties to: prevent duplication of efforts or additional time required to coordinate two sets of minutes into one comprehensive document, save administrative costs associated to staff time and decrease general confusion. Some discussion was held but no vote or action was taken. Chair directed DM to get minutes out as soon as possible, preferably within a week of the meeting. DM stated that she would do her best to get minutes transcribed and sent out within a week of the District Meetings.

- F. Cooperative Projects with Roger Williams University** – DM reported on the opportunity to partner with RWU Sustainability students. DM reported on current project ideas that will be presented to students during the District presentation scheduled for Tuesday, January 27th. DM informed Board of the results of the project brainstorming session held just prior to the Board meeting.

DM requested that any additional ideas the Board may have of projects the students might be able to work on be sent to her prior to Thursday, January 22nd.

G. CTA Agreement Match Needs – DM reported that she is having difficulty making contact with Newport Water regarding their willingness to provide match monies to this agreement. Since FFOS planning is currently paused by the SCC, ERICD needs to find an alternate source of match. DM requested the Board provide her with any additional ideas they may have of match opportunities in the District to increase the chances of securing appropriate match monies for this agreement.

H. Town Funding Requests – DM reported that she intends to have the Town Funding Request Letters out before the end of January pending time availability considering the current Admin task/time load.

VI. New Business

A. RI Ag Partnership Strategy Symposium “Farming in RI’s Future” – DM reported to the Board regarding an invitation to participate. The symposium will be held on January 27, 2015 from 8AM to 4PM at the Alton Jones Campus at URI. The Chair requested that the DM forward the event details to him.

B. Moswansicut Geese Planting – DM reported that this is an NRICD-led project with their partners at Providence Water. This project is largely outreach-focused and aims to reduce phosphorus loading to the Moswansicut Reservoir, a tributary of the Scituate Reservoir. One method of reducing phosphorus loading that will be addressed by this project (as was recommended by an ESS Group consulting report) is controlling Canada Geese in an area of the Moswansicut Reservoir shoreline by using fencing and/or buffer planting strategies. NRICD approached the ERICD requesting the DM’s assistance in developing the fencing/planting plan and assisting with organizing a volunteer planting day for the buffer. This buffer is in addition to the harvesting strategies that PW already utilizes. Currently the volunteer planting day is scheduled for May 30th. NRICD is reimbursing ERICD for the DM’s time and associated costs. There are no indirect funds associated with this project.

C. Special Project Suggestions – DM reported receiving a letter from Isobel Hart suggesting a special project related to Monarch Butterflies and milkweed establishment. DM stated that she thinks it could be a good project or could lead to other ideas for good projects. Chair requested DM reply to Mrs. Hart regarding any information DM may currently have on the Monarch issue and perform some preliminary grant research.

VIII. Adjourn – Russ made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Ron and passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

Next Meeting: February 10, 2015 at 7PM at Sandywoods.